

Remarks

This is in response to the final Office Action mailed April 14, 2009, which rejected claims 19, 21-23, 26-27, 30-33 and 36. After final amendments have been presented above to claims 19, 30 and 41.

Independent claim 19 generally features “*wherein the track center of rotation is axially aligned with the central axis of the hub during said contact.*” Independent claim 30 similarly features “*wherein the track center is axially aligned with the central axis during said contact.*” Dependent claim 41 has been amended to better conform to the language of base claim 30.

These amendments merely make more explicit what would have been understood by the skilled artisan from the previously presented claim language, and are therefore clarifying in nature, do not narrow the claim scope over what was previously presented, and do not raise issues requiring further consideration or search. Support for these amendments includes the previously presented language of the claims, as well as in the specification at page 9, line 30 to page 10, line 5 and FIGS. 2-3. Entry of the amendments is respectfully solicited.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 19, 21, 26, 27, 30, 31, and 36 were rejected as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,421,199 to McKenzie et al. (“McKenzie ‘199”) in view of U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0059718 to Watanabe et al. (“Watanabe ‘718”). Dependent claims 22-23 and 32-33 were rejected as obvious over McKenzie ‘199 in view of Watanabe ‘718

and further in view of U.S Patent No. 6,971,154 to Yoo et al. (“Yoo ‘154”). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

With respect to claims 19, neither McKenzie ‘199 nor Watanabe ‘718 teaches or suggests “*wherein the track center of rotation is axially aligned with the central axis of the hub during said contact,*” as claimed. Rather, both references teach to write a track to a disc so that the track is concentric with the center of the disc, and then to center the disc on a hub to align the track center with the central axis of the hub.

McKenzie ‘199 mounts a disc 108 onto a first hub 202, and measures once per revolution (OPR) eccentricity of an outer diameter (OD) of the disc. A write transducer 212 is controllably positioned to write tracks 214 to the disc so as to minimize average OPR position error. In this way, the tracks are centered about the disc center. See e.g., FIGS. 3-5 and col. 5, lines 49-54.

McKenzie ‘199 subsequently places the disc onto a second hub 404 and once again measures OPR eccentricity of the disc OD. A pusher mechanism 412 advances the disc relative to the second hub 404 to minimize the average OPR position error, thereby aligning the center of the tracks (and the center of the disc) with the central axis of the hub. See e.g., FIGS. 6-7 and col. 6, lines 38-45.

Watanabe ‘718 generally teaches to mechanically center a disc 3 onto a hub 2, the disc having a central aperture slightly larger than the diameter of the hub. The disc is pushed in a first direction so that a sidewall of the disc aperture contacts a first side of the hub. The disc is then retracted in a second direction opposite the first direction so that the aperture sidewall an opposing second side of the hub.

The distance that the disc was moved between these respective extents is determined, and the disc is advanced in the first direction by half this distance. In this way, the disc center is aligned with the hub center and a uniform annular gap is formed around the hub. See e.g., the sequence of FIG. 3 and paras [0042]-[0045]. Tracks can be written to the disc prior to and/or after this sequence. See para [0057].

Thus, neither McKenzie '199 nor Watanabe '718 teach or suggest “*wherein the track center of rotation is axially aligned with the central axis of the hub during said contact,*” as claimed. At best, Watanabe '718 teaches to contact the inner surface of the disc mounting aperture against the hub, but this is only so that the hub can be subsequently centered within the aperture. It is clear that during such contact in Watanabe '718, an offset will expressly exist between the central axis of the hub and the track center of rotation.

Reconsideration of the rejection of claim 19, and for the claims depending therefrom, is accordingly requested. Independent claim 30 includes language similar to that discussed above for claim 19, and is therefore believed to be patentable over the cited references for the same reasons.

Claim 30 further features “*providing a disc member with an annular track having a track center offset from a center of the disc member.*” In view of the foregoing discussion, it is clear that neither reference teaches or suggests this language. Indeed, both McKenzie '199 and Watanabe '718 teach away from this language by expressly providing a track center that is aligned with the center of the disc. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 30, and for the claims depending therefrom, are further respectfully requested on this basis.

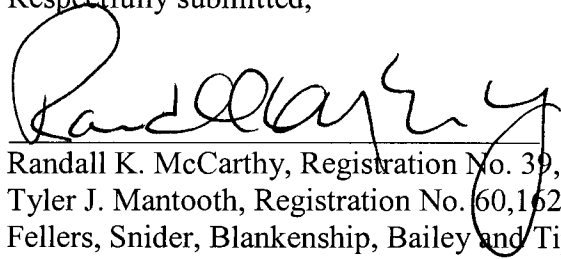
Conclusion

This is intended to be a complete response to the final Office Action mailed April 14, 2009. The Applicant respectfully requests examination and allowance of the elected claims, as well as examination and allowance of the withdrawn claims.

Should any questions arise concerning this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the below signed attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randall K. McCarthy", written over a horizontal line.

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